

COMMITTEE: University Environment Committee

MEETING DATE: February 24, 2022

PERSON PRESIDING: Susan Pearce

REGULAR MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Susan Pearce, Tammy Lee, Kerry Sewell, Alison Swift, Lisa Beth Robinson, Akshat Kapoor, Marc Petersen, Logan Harrison (ECCURPC Guest), Thompson Forbes,

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Chad Carwein, Dean Smith, Tim Christensen,

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Rachel Baker

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Call to order and Approval of Minutes

Discussion: n/a

Action Taken: Call to order at 3:35pm. Brief introductions of members. Motion to approve minutes by Chad, second by Lisa Beth. Minutes approved.

Assigned additional duties to: n/a

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- a. Agenda Item: Lisa Beth Robinson: Report from committee member Lisa Beth Robinson on art installation regarding climate migration

Lisa Beth shared her Project Catching a Wave with CSI (Coastal Studies Institute) on capturing a wave in a moment of time. The digital file is then translated into a 3-dimensional file. Students work to create a physical model. The work is a collaboration with colleagues from UK and there are presenting at the Ocean Science Meeting. The project is investigating about the migration of people when dealing with climate change. See Lisa Beth for more information on her exciting project and research.

- b. Agenda Item: Student guest: Logan Harrison, new campus beautification initiative

Logan's presentation: The initiative is working on creating another beautification project and making campus a place where people want to interact and go and making it more beautiful. Logan is a sophomore and is the President of the ECU Rock Painting Club. They have over 5060 members and very active on campus. They are working with the campus orchard committee and other various departments to put on art displays and other visual aesthetic lead events for students. The history of the committee started with the beautification in 1930s, Martin Wright, who was associate professor, that chaired the first campus beautification committee, right fountain and other notable landmarks were result of this effort. This is going to be an effort that's with all stakeholders in the university, both the chances, administration staff, Senate faculty Senate and the student body. There's been some process in the past that had to do with improving campus, those visually, aesthetically, logistically and maybe they all were here for a campus within context, which is a 2011 plan. And while there were some impetuses to do something and there plans made including how long things should be or how things fit

into the overall aesthetic of ECU. But there was no actual plan. There was a campus bicycle Pedestrian Plan, which was in 2013, which kind of spurred from that 2011 campus when the context plan and speaking of bicycle, pedestrian that fits into our beautification because we are partnering with Ethan Hagerman, who is his senior Capstone project, is to implement bike and pedestrian accommodations. He's been putting out a survey to the student body recently and here are some quotes for you as a walker. "We usually plow through crowds of people because I where I live. I would not bike to campus, and we wonder whether folks even think of safety is concerned." A lot of these things can be fixed with a group effort. We can make campus more able to be accessed by pedestrians and bikers and skateboarders and scooters alike. So, no improvement plans have been put in place is 2013. This is where we're at right now. We are meeting with stakeholders, get ideas flowing. There was a meeting with the faculty Senate. We're meeting with the staff Senate and the Chancellor's represented from the chances administration soon and at by the end of this semester, the goal is to create a campus committee, A4 beautification, that has its first meeting by the end of this semester, we will get input from the student body and these other stakeholders, like I said, and will get a recommendation, compile into our port and then go out. And implement these things for the students. I'd like to hear your thoughts and see how we can work on this together. Logan Harrison concluded his presentation. Chad provided background on contacting various stakeholders and history of these types of efforts at ECU and the future of the Greenway and making sure to contact with the various campuses such as Health Sciences and the new campus projects. Susan spoke about the bicycle initiatives from the past at ECU and other projects that could be collaborations with this student group.

Actions Taken: N/A

c. Agenda Item: Report on presentation regarding divestment from NC State (Chad Carwein)

Chad shared the upcoming event. The Sustainability Roundtable coming up next Monday on February 28th. Chad then shared about the Divestment meeting on February 23, 2022. The presentation that was done by Nadia Shepherd from NC State. She's part of their climate reality core group. core group and has been for four years there at the university. She talked about their efforts to learn more about the endowment and NC State and how much of it was invested in fossil fuels in the process for divestment. I think they have gone through a similar experience with trying to learn and trying to put themselves in touch with the right people. One of the biggest takeaways is that the UNC management company handles a large portion of the endowments for several schools in the UNC system, and that it that includes ECU. There are other funds that are that are managed, I guess through other entities, but this big third-party firm manages a big portion of all the endowments and other things. Nadia said that it was very difficult to get information, that there's not a lot of transparency. Evidently, the UNC management company has, at least for the time being, temporarily halted new investments in fossil fuels, and I think that that has been primarily because they're not performing as well as other investment strategies. Public information or information that they were using for advertising or promoting was a strategy that they've done and it's it's being viewed as temporary. Chad proposed that forming a coalition of students that represent all the various schools in the UNC system may be the best place to start with creating awareness around the issue.

d. Agenda Item: Chad is on the search committee for the Energy Manager position. Possibly a person in place by April. Susan suggested that we create a statement supporting divestments and renewable energy options before the Energy Manager is hired. Chad explained the duties of the Energy Manager. The Energy Manager will be responsible for tracking our energy use on campus. They will be trying to figure out how to track all the building energy use and trying to cut down on monies spent on energy. As well as troubleshooting all the various meters, we have on campus to be able to track our energy use more efficiently. Every year we get a little over \$1,000,000 to basically reinvest into energy efficiency projects and we've been doing that, you know for the past 15 years or so and it's called energy carry forward funds. Basically, we get a set amount of money from the state legislature for our budget, you know for as a public institution, whatever we don't spend of that budget, we get to carry forward to the next year. We get to invest those funds in energy efficiency projects, such as, replacing equipment and infrastructure, upgrading lighting, upgrading windows and insulation. We hope to be able to lower our energy bills. To make the building more efficient will be able to have more money to carry over the next year. Fourth and final thing that that I would like to see this person do more of than our previous energy manager is really putting a team together that can go building by building and really optimized the buildings like retro Commission the building. They will be able to monitor the energy efficiency of the buildings and to determine what needs to be done. With this information the university can then make decisions about those projects that we use carryforward funding such as US1 rooftop solar array up every year. That would cost about 250 to \$300,000 out of that 1.5 million that we get every year. Having a letter of support for both initiatives, I think is a great next step and then it would be something that this person could come into, you know, understanding that you know we've got various committees that are laying out some expectations. But are also supportive of the work that they're going to do. I think it would be great to do that.

Actions Taken: Susan proposed creating two subcommittees 1) for creating a statement supporting the divestment efforts and on renewable energy for ECU. 2) Working on the grand opening event for Otter Creek

Otter Creek Committee – Chad, Tammy Lee, Marc Petersen

Divestment Statement Committee—Akshat, Lisa Beth, Kerry Sewell

Discussion:

Chad update committee on Otter Creek natural area. Grand re-opening April 21 at 2pm on Earth Day. Will try to arrange buses for transport for the grand re-opening.

Bill Koch is going to investigate the messaging that we are going to put out. The announcement should indicate its availability and what is exactly it's available for. We want students and staff and faculty to have use for research and teaching. But if it's also going to be used for recreation. We need to indicate the limits and hours of availability. There could be some liability concern there that people get into that, and something happens. Some of the signage may be a part of this grand opening. EC sustainability web page will have information as well. Maybe there can be a form that people will fill out if they want permission to use Otter Creek such as West Research campus for research or educational activities.

Agenda Item: Old Business

Discussion:

a. Bill reports still waiting on NIOSH. No information related to cases (medical). There is no report currently. Bill Koch says that there is not yet an update on the Brewster study. Brewster Building Health study and but he is willing to take any questions.

a. Update on Tobacco Use in campus buildings (Susan Pearce)

NC statue has a fine of \$25 for tobacco use in areas not indicated.

b. No Confetti Campaign—Spread the word about no confetti. Chad has been working on making it more student lead for this cause.

Twitter: https://twitter.com/no_confetti_ecu

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/No-Confetti-ECU-109227784557642>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/no_confetti_ecu/

Tik Tok:

https://www.tiktok.com/@no_confetti_ecu/video/6950681250973633797?lang=en&is_copy_url=0&is_from_webapp=v1&sender_device=pc&sender_web_id=6924688585581921797

II. Announcements

III. Adjourn

Websites FYI: ECU Sustainability Website: <https://campusoperations.ecu.edu/sustainability/>

NEXT MEETING: March 24, 2022

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED: